



**ASPIRA**  
*of New York, Inc*  
**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT &**  
**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

35

*Los Tres Amigos*  
*50<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
*Bash*

YEARS

1961-1997

## **ASPIRA Alumni Association**

The turbulent 1960s brought to life the ideas, dreams and goals of the ASPIRA movement. In 1961 Dr. Antonia Pantoja led a group of Puerto Rican professionals and community activists to found ASPIRA in New York City.

The essential elements of pride in knowing ones culture and history, striving for academic excellence, and promoting leadership and a sense of commitment to community, continues to this day.

Thirty-five years later, ASPIRA of New York, the first of the now several ASPIRA affiliates across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, continues to realize the vision of Dr. Pantoja.

During these thirty-five years, the City of New York has witnessed the arrival of Latinos from other countries. ASPIRA has grown to encompass these new arrivals, many from the Dominican Republic, in the vision.

The commitment to assure the continuation of ASPIRA and its mission spurred the development of the Alumni Association. In the spring of 1992, an Alumni Steering Committee was formed and the Alumni Association was launched in November 1993.

As with all volunteer organizations, it is difficult to maintain and grow, however, our alumni are persistent.

This event will mark the re-launching of the New York ASPIRA Alumni Association, and we ask all alumni to join. Your \$25 annual dues will assure you receipt of the New York ASPIRA quarterly newsletter, as well as the National ASPIRA Association quarterly newsletter. In addition, you will be invited to an annual alumni event. Alumni will also be sought as speakers and mentors for our current Aspirantes.

The power of the ASPIRA movement is realized in each and everyone of us. By giving back a little of what was given to us, we continue to keep the ASPIRA movement strong, and we help realize a better future for our youth and our community.

*Digna Sanchez, President  
Alumni Steering Committee*



## **ASPIRA of New York, Inc.**

*ASPIRA's Board, Alumni Association, and Executive Director join in acknowledging the following companies and individuals for their generous support of this event.*

♦♦♦♦

**Action Service Center, Ltd.**

**Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.**

**ASPIRA Staff and Volunteers**

**Banco Popular**

**Brooklyn College**

**Brooklyn Union Gas**

**Castillo Associates, LLP**

**Children's Television Workshop (CTW)**

**Citibank, N.A.**

**City University of New York (CUNY)**

**Con Edison**

**Educational Equity Concepts**

**Educational Testing Service (ETS)**

**1199 National Health & Human Services Employees Union**

**Family and Friends of Milga Morales**

**Family and Friends of Digna Sanchez**

**Family and Friends of Andres Torres**

**GKN Securities**

**Hostos Community College**

**Kimerling, Margulies & Wisdom, Ltd.**

**Lehman College**

**Martin Luther King Labor Center**

**Park Avenue Merchants - Division of Charmer Sales Company**

**Philip Morris**

**Phipps Community Development Corporation**

**Univision**

**Women's Venture Fund**

**And to sponsors identified after the journal deadline, therefore not listed**

**"Thank you for your support!"**



35 Years of Leadership in Puerto Rican And Latino Youth

Anthony Lopez  
Executive Director

Daniel Agosto  
Chairman

Escher Ruiz  
Vice Chairman

February 22, 1997

Dear Friend of ASPIRA:

I am pleased to welcome you all to this evening's "Los Tres Amigos" event.

The intent of this evening is to celebrate, together with Milga, Digna and Andy, 150 combined years of commitment, compafierismo y lucha.

This evening also provides us all with an opportunity to celebrate ASPIRA of New York, Inc.'s 35 years of fostering the social advancement of the Puerto Rican/Latino community, as well as enable us to recognize three Aspirantes who have been leaders in the struggles for educational excellence and equity.

As we celebrate this evening, let us acknowledge their important contributions and their continued support for ASPIRA of New York, Inc. in pursuing our mission of leadership development through educational excellence.

We thank you for your support of this evening, as we will call upon alumni/supporters during the coming year to help ASPIRA of New York, Inc. pursue its mission with renewed resources and commitment. Together we can ensure that our youth will become strong, creative and ethical leaders of tomorrow, as *Los Tres Amigos* are today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Daniel Agosto".

Daniel Agosto  
Chairman



*"The quality of our collective futures directly relates to the extent to which society becomes a more inclusive one and capitalizes on multilingualism and multiculturalism. You can make a difference by believing in yourself, your family and your community."*



*— Isaura Santiago Santiago, Ph.D.  
President, Hostos Community College  
of The City University of New York*

*Congratulations to  
ASPIRA OF NEW YORK, INC.,  
on its Thirty Fifth Anniversary*

*— un abrazo de la familia de Hostos*



Hostos Community College's mission is that of providing "educational opportunities leading to socio-economic mobility for first and second generation Hispanic, African American and other residents of New York who have encountered significant barriers to higher education." To this end, Hostos Community College provides its students with bilingual education. The College is unique in that it is the only bilingual community college in The City University of New York.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The thirty-fifth anniversary of an organization is a milestone which should be joyously celebrated. It is also a bench mark against which to assess achievements and accomplishments, reconsider and reaffirm institutional mission, and identity, develop and implement future initiatives. I am proud to report that ASPIRA of New York, Inc. has commemorated 35 years exactly in that manner.

As I reflect on our organization's history, it is beyond any doubt that ASPIRA of New York has and continues to play a major role in the lives of many Puerto Rican/Latino and other youth. Our educational component has been a major factor in enabling a significant number of these youth to attend post secondary institutions. In addition, the Leadership Development Program has provided guidance and support to thousands of students at a critical time in their lives -- the formative but volatile, pressure-filled high school years.

We can look proudly at the results. "Aspirantes" are now studying in a broad cross-section of fields and pursuing careers in all facets of the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Many are involved in volunteer community service projects, social action activities, and serve on the board of directors of community organizations, including our own.

Yet, while significant advances have been made, many of the conditions which gave rise to the need for this organization over 35 years ago persist today. The dropout rate of our youth remains unacceptably high. Puerto Rican and other Latino youth are significantly under-represented in higher education, particularly in graduate professional programs. In light of the current growth of information technology in our society, there is a mismatch between the number of new jobs being created and the ability of our youth to perform, let alone excel in these jobs. Thus, the need for meaningful, culturally-appropriate educational and career counseling is more critical today than ever before.

In an effort to ensure that the organization is fully prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead both in terms of our advocacy efforts, service delivery and the realities facing our youth, ASPIRA of New York will:

- Reach out to its Alumni for volunteer and financial support;
- Develop projects and initiatives that focuses on technology and economic development;
- Diversify its funding portfolio;
- Develop stronger partnerships with schools and institutions of higher learning;
- Encourage parents to become active partners within the ASPIRA process of leadership development;

In closing, on behalf of the staff of ASPIRA of New York, I wish *Los Tres Amigos* a magnificent birthday bash, and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of our supporters throughout these 35 years. I leave you with the words of our founder, Dr. Antonia Pantoja, who once said:

*"There is a poverty that is worse than the lack of financial resources, and that is the deterioration of the fighting spirit, the loss of self-pride and the destruction of self-assurance. The problems can be overwhelming. Indeed they are enormous, but we cannot run away from them. They must be resolved, the future of all of us depends on its."*

Anthony López, Executive Director

# ❖❖❖ LOS TRES AMIGOS ❖❖❖

Dr. Milga Morales is Associate Professor of Education and the Coordinator of the Elementary Education Division at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

She first became acquainted with the ASPIRA organization in 1964 at the convention of Aspirantes held in Columbia University. Inspired by a presentation given by Camille Rodriguez, then a college sophomore, she applied to City University and was accepted on the College Discovery Program.

She has been active in projects addressing the needs of Puerto Rican/Latino youth, and to that end has served as Chair of the ASPIRA of New York Programs Committee, and is a member of the Board.

Dr. Morales has been actively involved in the struggle for Puerto Rican studies since the late 1960s. Her daughter, Lenina Nadal, is a political science and communications major, as well as a student activist at Hunter College in CUNY.



Digna Sanchez is currently the Vice President for Community Education Services (CES) at the Children's Television Workshop (CTW). She is responsible for developing and managing projects to extend the reach of CTW's programming and materials to children and their families by working with national and local organizations and community groups.

She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of ASPIRA of New York and heads the ASPIRA Alumni Committee. Her relationship with ASPIRA dates from 1963 when as a high school student organizer on the Lower East Side, she organized the Seward Park High School ASPIRA Club. In 1985, she was the recipient of the ASPIRA Alumnus of the Year Award. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families.

Most importantly, she is the proud mother of Belisa Alvarez, a third year student at the University of Puerto Rico. Belisa herself an Aspirante, organized the Sueños ASPIRA Club at the High School for the Humanities in 1993.



Andrés Torres teaches economics at the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Previous to that he was a Research Director at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College. Dr. Torres is the author of *Between Melting Pot and Mosaic*, a political-economic history of African Americans and Puerto Ricans in New York City. He is currently working on *Despierta Boricua*, an anthology of Puerto Rican political activism since the 1960s.

He is proud of his association with ASPIRA. One of his very first jobs was as a counselor in ASPIRA's College Retention Program. His wife Carmen Vivian Rivera was an Aspirante at Monroe High School. "ASPIRA is a survivor: a place where our Puerto Rican/Latino identity has been nourished and protected. Through its doors many future activists and leaders have passed. More than ever, it is vital that this tradition be extended and deepened."



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

Daniel Agosto, Chairman

Esther Ruiz, Secretary

Raquel Ortiz-Martinez, Treasurer

### Committee Chairs

Eugenio Barrios, Chair/Program

Epifanio Castillo, Chair/Human Resources

Héctor Ramírez, Chair/Development

Digna Sánchez, Chair/Alumni

### Members

Douglas Gómez

Milga Morales-Nadal

Eduardo Padró

Verónica Pérez

Edgardo Ramos

Orlando Rivera

Carmen A. Sepúlveda

Nilda I. Soto

Magda N. Irrizarry

### Student Members

Onel Narr

Heriberto Oquendo

D'wayne Prieto

Daisy Rodríguez

### Executive Director

Anthony López

## PROGRAM

9:00 PM

### WELCOME

Daniel Agosto  
Chairman of the Board

9:10 PM

### INTRODUCTIONS

Anthony López  
Executive Director

9:20 PM

### LOS TRES AMIGOS

\*\*\*\*

Milga Morales-Nadal

\*\*\*

Digna Sánchez

\*\*

Andy Torres

\*

9:00 PM - 2:00 AM

### ENTERTAINMENT

Conjunto Bembé

Featuring Tony Nadal

Also

DJ Joey Osorio

9:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Buffet By  
Marta Camacho  
Exotic Foods

12:00 Midnight

Birthday Toast  
and Cake

*¡FELICIDADES!*  
A NUESTRA HIJA, HERMANA Y AMIGA

Dra. Milga Morales Nadal

DE SU  
FAMILIA Y AMISTADES

*CRECENSIO MORALES (PADRE)*

*FRANCISCO, TATY y FRANCIS K. RIVERA*

*GLADYS y ANGEL LUIS ALVAREZ*

*CRECENSIO, MARGARITA y RAQUEL MORALES*

*MARTIN, JULIE, ORLANDO y DAVID MORALES*

*NELSON SANCHEZ y MARGARITA OTERO*

*LUIS y ZAIDA RAMIREZ Y FAMILIA*

*CHESTER y ALEXANDER REYES Y FAMILIA*

*JOSE, LUCY, YVONNE, CHERYL, JANET,  
y ROBERT RODRIGUEZ*

Dr. Ricardo R. Fernández, President  
and the Students, Faculty, and Staff  
of

**LEHMAN COLLEGE**  
**THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

congratulate

ASPIRA of New York  
Celebrating its 35th Anniversary

*Lehman College offers more than 90 undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences.*

*The campus is a regional center for the visual and performing arts, sports, and recreation, with its Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, Lovinger Theatre, Lehman College Art Gallery, and The APEX.*

CHILDREN'S  
TELEVISION  
WORKSHOP

Congratulations



on its 35th Anniversary!

Felicidades to  
Digna Sánchez  
on her half century!

Mucha felicidad para  
*Los Tres Amigos*  
en su cumpleaños y siempre

Espero que muchos sean  
tan a dichosos como yo en  
naber compartido parte de  
esos 150 años de experiencia

Tu niña  
*Belisa Alvarez*

Le deseamos de  
todo corazón  
un feliz cumpleaño  
y que pueda seguir  
ayudando a la juventud  
en Aspira

Padres de Digna Sánchez  
*Serafin e Idaliz Sánchez*

FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS  
EN PIE DE LUCHA  
Y CON AMOR  
DESDE NUEVA JERSEY



Yvette Alfonso  
Sigfredo Carrillo  
Rosa García  
Luis Negrón  
Frankie Perez, Esq.  
Martín Perez, Esq.  
Pedro Reyes  
Margie Santiago Perez  
José "Che" Velázquez  
María Viscarrondo de Soto



Feliz Cumpleaños Digna, from your friends  
at Educational Equity Concepts

(212) 267-3817

FAX (212) 267-3918

CASTILLO ASSOCIATES, LLP  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Esteban Castillo, Jr.  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

270 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 9, NEW YORK, NY 10013-2904

WE CONGRATULATE YOU  
ON YOUR 35TH YEAR  
OF SERVICE TO  
YOUR COMMUNITY.

*ERIC RAY CIFRE*

*JAY GOLDMAN*

**GKN** Securities

---

Beach Raton • Great Neck • Miami • New York • Stamford • Zurich



*Since 1989  
ASPIRA  
of New York, Inc.  
and  
Educational Testing  
Service*

*have pooled their  
resources to expand  
educational and  
career opportunities  
for Latino students  
of all ages.*

# Building a better community... **ONE PERSON** at a *TIME*.



At Citibank we never forget that the communities we serve are people. Communities are people.

That's why we're involved with so many people-oriented programs and organizations New York

Education, the Affordable Housing

Arts, the Environment

Healthcare, and many other areas to

which we've turned our attention.

And our commitment goes beyond just

charity. We provide the most important

resource of all people. As we've said,

Technology is a tool. Through Citi's leaders

in the business world, we're finding the best

way to really help build a community

the same way you build a bank... person

to person.

**CITIBANK**

620-555-1234-1230

THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

# ANDY

"YOU'RE OUR NUMERO UNO!"

---

*Fifty years of life  
and you're still going strong!*

***¡FELIZ CUMPLEAÑO!***

*We love you man!*

Rachel  
Orlando  
Vivian  
Benita (Mom)  
Maria  
Philip

Teri  
Ruben  
Nicki



Vicky  
Gilbert  
Marisol  
Ruben  
Iliana  
Gilbert Philip  
Philip Michael  
Adriane  
Chris

*"Oh yeah, when's your next best seller coming out??!"*

Congratulations to  
*ASPIRA*  
on its 35th anniversary  
and most especially to  
my aunt Milga and her  
two amigos,

Digna Sanchez and Andy Torres

Legally yours,  
Candido and Elizabeth

Candido Rodriguez,  
Attorney at law  
Elizabeth, New Jersey  
(908) 289-5599

**CONGRATULATIONS  
FROM  
A  
FELLOW  
ASPIRANTE**



**MARIA SEMIDEI-OTERO  
PRESIDENT  
WOMEN'S VENTURE FUND  
34 EAST 70th STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10021**

Con  
la educación

Con  
la cultura

Con  
las artes

Con  
las ciencias sociales

Con  
el desarrollo económico

Con  
su comunidad

Con  
Edison

A través de nuestro Programa Edison en el Día Mundial de la Energía, apoyamos a más de 1000 organizaciones que trabajan por el progreso y el bienestar de la comunidad.

Mejorando la calidad de vida y  
desarrollando el desarrollo económico  
estamos ofreciendo algo más que energía.  
Una luz de esperanza para todos.

# *Congratulations!*

## **ASPIRA** of New York

*for 35 years of education,  
empowerment, and leadership.*

*Through your investment in  
Puerto Rican and Latino youth  
you enrich the community  
in the tradition of  
Dr. Antonia Pantoja.*



*With appreciation—*  
**The City University of New York**

W. Ann Reynolds, Chancellor

# Great Ideas Come In Different Packages

Philip Morris' commitment to diversity reaches into many communities.

By supporting educational reform and excellence, charitable organizations, the arts, and minority and women-owned businesses, we also support our communities. Each act of good citizenship enriches us all.

A great idea that makes a world of difference.



## PHILIP MORRIS COMPANIES INC.

Philip Morris U.S.A.  
Philip Morris International Inc  
Kraft Foods, Inc  
Kraft Foods International, Inc  
Miller Brewing Company  
Philip Morris Capital Corp

Valuing Diversity in Product, Employee & Community



PRESIDENT VERNON E. LATTIN  
AND THE  
BROOKLYN COLLEGE COMMUNITY  
SALUTE  
ASPIRA OF NEW YORK, INC.  
AND  
MELICA MORALES-NAJERA  
ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT OF ASPIRA

# What Dreams are made of

*They are made by organizations like ASPIRA of New York, which is celebrating thirty-five years of helping to make the dreams of a better future, a reality for those it serves*

*Banco Popular congratulates you!*



**BANCO POPULAR**

*We Bank on your Dreams* ®

With twenty-nine branches in New York  
For more information call 212- POPULAR  
Member FDIC

**ACTION SERVICE CENTER...**  
congratulates ASPIRA on its 35th anniversary  
**BRAVO! TO MY AUNT MILGA AND HER TWO AMIGOS,**  
**ANDY TORRES AND DIGNA SANCHEZ.**

Automotively yours,  
Robert Lopez, proprietor

475 Hemlock Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
(718) 827-0766



**KIMERLING, MARCULIES & WISDOM, LTD.**  
370 Lexington Avenue, Suite 310  
New York, New York 10017

NOAH KIMERLING

212-986-0682  
FAX 212-661-1970

**Phipps Houses  
Phipps Houses Services, Inc.  
Phipps Community Development Corporation**



*Promoting Better Lives  
Through Enduring Community  
Since 1905*

**Phipps Houses**

**Hope is Moving In**

- ▶ Housing Development
- ▶ Property Management
- ▶ Community Development

**Manuel (Manny) A. Mendez  
Executive Director/CEO, Phipps CDC**

43 West Twenty-Third Street

New York, New York 10010

212-243-9090



## PROGRAMS

### Youth Leadership Development Program (LDP)

The Youth Leadership Development Program (LDP) is the core program of ASPIRA. Through school-based leadership clubs, students learn the "ASPIRA Process" of *awareness, analysis, and action*. The program provides leadership training, cultural enrichment activities, and community action projects that teach students how to develop their abilities to become effective leaders of their community. Each club is represented at the ASPIRA Clubs Federation (ACF), an assembly that convenes twice every month to discuss action-oriented activities for all clubs in New York. The LDP also provides HIV/AIDS information and workshops to youth. It further provides HIV/AIDS workshops at local high schools. Additionally, LDP coordinates the ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program which works with Latino high school students to help them learn about and become involved in the process of public policy formulation. LDP is funded by the ASPIRA National Association, the Department of Youth Services, Community Development Agency, and private foundations.

### Project AWARE

The *Aspire to Win through Academic Retention and Excellence (AWARE)* Project is an intensive - leadership skills, dropout prevention/attendance improvement program serving junior and high school students. It offers attendance and academic monitoring, basic skills improvement, family assistance, parent workshops, and leadership development club services. This program is funded by the United Way of New York City/CAPS Program.

### Project BEAM and BEAM Ten

Operating out of IS 139 in the South Bronx, (BEAM) and P.S. 86 in the Kingsbridge/Norwood section of the north Bronx, the goal of *Building Educational Aspiration and Multiculturalism* Project is to open schools for area residents to offer services that integrate families and communities. It provides leadership development, tutorial assistance, family and academic counseling, parent involvement training, recreational activities, cultural programs, family-support services, child care, and drug and violence prevention activities. These services are provided after school, evenings, and weekends, all year round. ASPIRA's Beacon schools are funded by the NYC Department of Youth Services.

### College/Career Advisement Program (C/CAP)

C/CAP provides students with academic and financial aid counseling, college placement activities, SAT preparation courses, campus tours, and participation in college admission interviews arranged by the program. In addition, C/CAP houses three career groups: Law, Communications, and Health, which encourages participation in these professional fields through workshops, career-site visits, and internships. C/CAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the ASPIRA National Association.

### Amoco Scholarship Program

The Amoco Dealers Community Scholarship program is a highly successful effort by Amoco dealers, brokers, and the Amoco Foundation to provide financial help to college-bound students in the greater New York City metropolitan area. Administered through ASPIRA of New York's C/CAP division, the program awards and recognizes those high school graduates who have served their school and community, but have limited financial resources for college. Eligible applicants must be residents of the greater New York City metropolitan area and Southern Connecticut. Funding for the Amoco Scholarship program is provided by Amoco dealers and the Amoco Foundation.

### AmeriCorps/Project Safe and Sound

Funded under President Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps Initiative, Project Safe and Sound is a unique collaboration of public agencies and community-based organizations united to mobilize individuals, families, and businesses to become agents of long lasting change for a violence-free environment in the South Bronx. After year one, the program will expand to other high need areas in New York City. Members are recruited citywide to work towards creating a safer New York through neighborhood education campaigns and community service projects. The AmeriCorps program is funded by the Corporation for National Service and the NYS Office of Voluntary Service.

VARIETY

ENTERTAINMENT

NOTICIAS

MUSIC  
NEWS

 **UNIVISION 41**  
WXTV/NEW YORK

*celebrates with the*

**ASPIRA ALUMNI,**

**ASPIRA'S**

*35 years of*

*service to the*

*community*

SION

OWS

**41**

SHOWS

Encuentro

Sábado al Mediodía

**COMEDY**